

THE SABRES' BLADE

October 9, 1996

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXIV

New Superintendent Focuses on Students

By Katie Payerle

The first day of school marked the arrival of many new faces in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System including Dr. Eric Smith, the new Superintendent of schools. Traditionally, the arrival of new leadership brings questions and curiosity. Dr. Smith's arrival is no exception.

Eric Smith is a busy but easy-going man with light brown hair and a ready and warm smile. He describes himself as "an individual who has a primary focus on the students of the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System."

As Superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Dr. Smith expects to face several major issues. "A major issue that deals with high school is the issue of high school graduation requirements," said Smith. Right now, students are required to complete twenty credits to graduate, but Smith plans to form a committee to reevaluate that requirement.

A new controversy may arise over the changes in pupil assignment because of the two new high schools. "It gets to be a very personal issue and one that carries with it a lot of emotion. So that tends to make it more controversial perhaps, but it should be. It's a very important issue," said Smith.

Another area of concern this year deals with the school's responsibility for "raising children." Dr. Smith answered claims that schools were given too much responsibility in this area. "I think we are a partner in the business of what goes on with the students and I don't think we can avoid that."

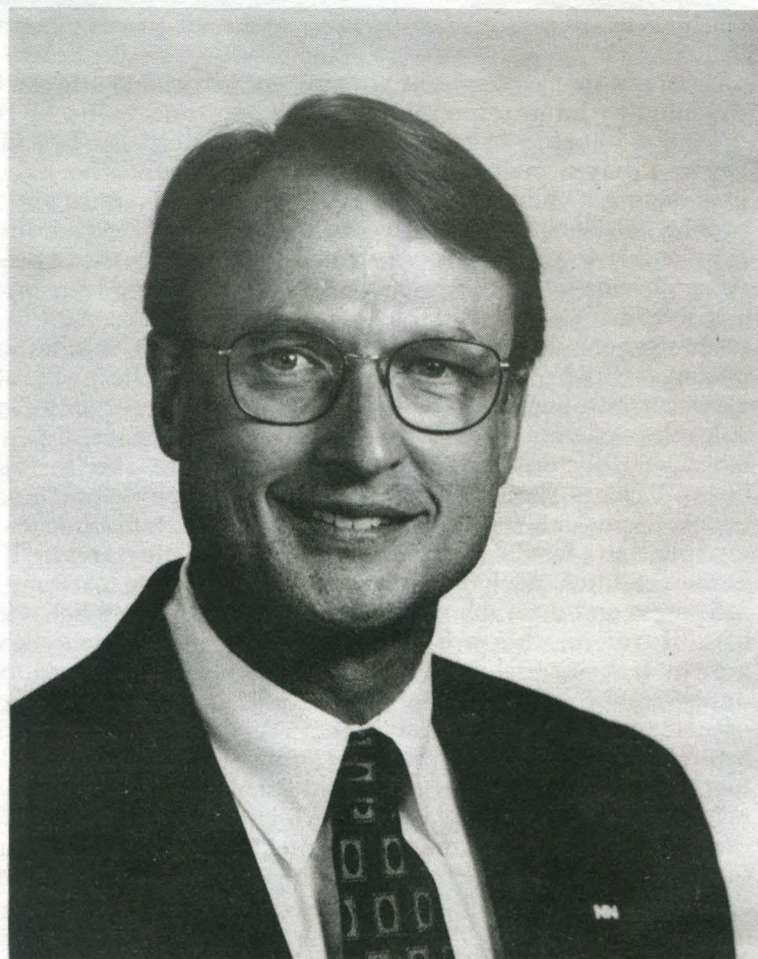
He stressed that although no one can replace parental responsibility, the system can support and supplement it. He also spoke about a student's role in his own education. "Particularly as students get older," he said, "they should take a great deal of responsibility for what they are doing, and their role in the

way they're managing their own lives."

Based on this philosophy, Smith plans to form a group of students called SAGE (Student Advisory Group on Education). The group would consist of selected high school students that would meet with him once every two months or so and discuss educational issues. He deemed the group an essential part of his job. "I could never be a superintendent and not have one," he said. Applications for participation in SAGE should be available in the guidance office in upcoming months.

Dr. Smith is hopeful and proud of the system. To the students he said, "Have a great year. Have a safe year. Have a year where you can make your life better with the academic studies that are available."

To the community, he said, "The students I met were outstanding. We, as the older generation should have tremendous hope for the future."



Superintendent Eric Smith

Debators Compete in NFL Championship

By Katie Payerle

What do the Dallas Cowboys, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and the South Mecklenburg Debate Team have in common? All three participated in the NFL Finals.

While most students were on vacation, alumni Rebecca Daughtridge and Sean Ivey and seniors Wendy Wright and Vani Hari represented South at the National Forensic League National Speech and Debate Tournament, the Super Bowl of high school debate competition.

The team's first challenge was qualifying to compete at Nationals. A competitor must place in the top two at the District Tournament.

Hari and Wright competed as a team in Policy Debate, in which two teams argue over national policy. Last year they debated the United States' foreign policy toward China. They won the 1996 District Championship going undefeated, qualifying themselves for the national tournament, where they competed against teams from all fifty states.

The competition at nationals was tough. "You hit [compete against] people with really creative styles [of debate]," said Wright.

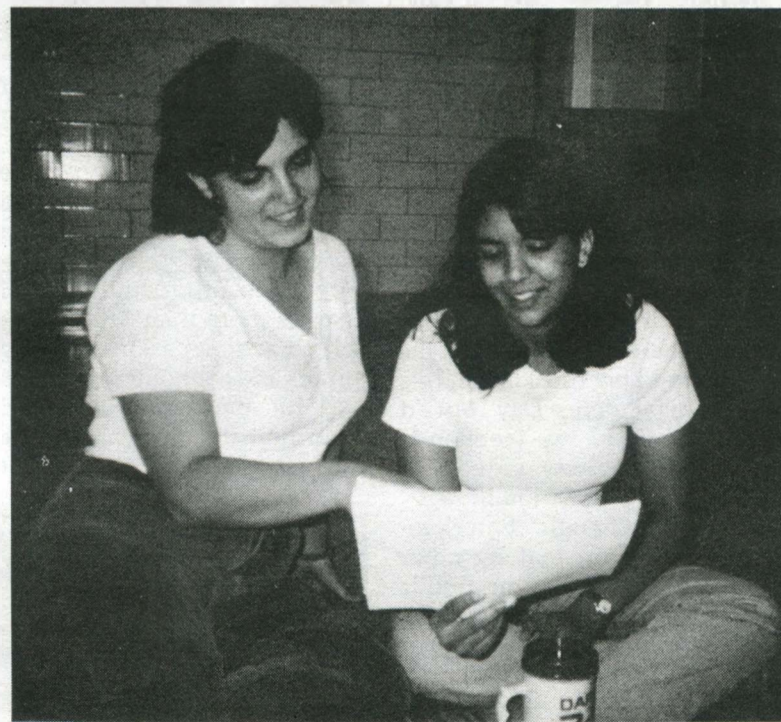
Hari noted, "You have to adapt your style. You have to be more persuasive instead of throwing out arguments as fast as you can." They adapted well and won a round of competition.

Barbara Miller, debate coach, is proud of her team. "We have an extraordinary cross-section of talent. I plan to dominate Districts next year," she said.

The tournament was held in Fayetteville, so the team did not have the opportunity to leave North Carolina and travel to Nationals this year. The team didn't mind.

"I went to Fort Lauderdale last year, and I'll go to Bloomington, Minnesota next year, but this year, it was about honoring your state and showing people there is good competition in North Carolina," said Wright.

"I get a lot out of debate," said



Wendy and Vani prepare for their next round of Debate.

Wright. "It's a way for me to express my opinion and argue effectively without fussing. I learn to listen. It takes you beyond core learning to higher learning."

Speaking of learning, both debaters agreed on the most important lesson of all. According to Wright and Hari, "We learned how to win it (nationals in Bloomington) next year."

Scholarship Committee Chooses Morehead Nominees

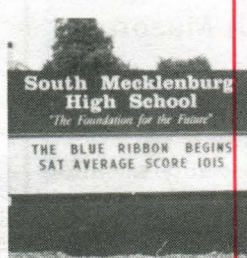
By Lauren Coggins

The two finalists chosen to represent South Meck in the competition for the Morehead Scholarship are Cliff Mauriello and Nathan Babcock.

The Morehead Scholarship, very possibly the most prestigious scholarship in the South, is a full scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The four criteria for the award are leadership, scholarship, moral force of character and physical vigor. Applicants must show that they are well-rounded, and must have good academic records in challenging courses. They must also show honesty, integrity and courtesy.

Babcock and Mauriello will interview to advance to the regional competition on October 20. Congratulations to both of these fine Sabre students.

Is this the year South Mecklenburg will win the Blue Ribbon? Pages 4-5



Charlotte is haunted by the *Phantom of the Opera*. Read the review of Webber's play on Page 6.

Students voice opinions about drug dogs on Page 3.



Attention Villagers!

By Katie Payerle

Everyone has heard the phrase "It takes a village to raise a child." The statement itself is valid; however, many times I believe that families rely on that phrase as an excuse for not teaching their children family values and behavior.

There are many people in a community who are responsible for the well-being of a child. Doctors play a major role in maintaining a child's physical health. Teachers are primarily responsible for a child's academic development, and friends and neighbors are essential in the process of building and supporting a child's social skills. However, too often, the undeniable role of parents is passed on to teachers, doctors, and neighbors. Parents should be the people responsible for teaching discipline and instilling morals in their children. Only parents can assess and meet the needs of children in this area of growth. It is essential that they do so.

Parents are the most important influence on a child. If one teacher, one doctor, or one neighbor fails, a child can easily escape permanent damage. Children come in contact with many teachers, doctors, and neighbors in a lifetime. A child

has only two parents. Parents are the singular, constant influence, and therefore the most important and most effective.

The level of parental involvement in a child's life is directly proportional to the child's success in school and in other activities. The consistent place of a parent in a child's life can be of tremendous value to the child—but it can also be a hindrance. If a parent is not a good role model, a child must rely on other, less stable community members. Since these other members are already responsible for a small area of the lives of many children, it is impossible for them to effectively take on the job of parent to a "lost child". Furthermore, it is not fair that they are asked to do so.

For example, it is the job of a teacher to educate students in various academic areas. If a teacher is forced to take time to teach a child proper behavior, the rest of the class sacrifices academic development so that one child can be taught a lesson that was supposed to be taught at home. That is clearly not fair to the majority.

If a village is responsible for raising a child, each individual in the village must do his part. And that includes parents.

Alien Invasion

By Kevin Ballantine

Enough is enough already. All I seem to hear about these days is aliens. From movies to TV shows to all different kinds of apparel, it's as if the movie makers are obsessed with something that they have never seen. This summer there were two movies with aliens, The Arrival and Independence Day. Luckily in the two movies the world wasn't destroyed although we came pretty close to disaster in Independence Day.

The original flicks were good. The Alien series of movies was the best; those tried to define the "alien". But now we're getting carried away. This fall there is a TV show called Dark Skies which is about an alien invasion that took place years ago. The X-Files was the original TV show that got people started on the paranormal hype. I love watch-

ing the X-Files but everything else is wearing thin. The contemporary view of aliens is that they are insectlike creatures that go around trying to destroy the earth. Society used to view aliens as little green men coming out of pie-plate flying saucers saying, "We come in peace."

It is time for the Hollywood producers to move away from the alien motif. I'm tired of it because the entertainment values are starting to lose their edge. There will always be the X-Files and big blockbuster hits like Independence Day, but I'd rather spend my weekends watching comedy videos instead of science fiction films.

Enough is enough. Entertainers should start making other kinds of movies or the public will become disinterested in science fiction.



Parking is such sweet sorrow.

No End Near for South's Parking Woes

By Cliff Mauriello

South Mecklenburg has car trouble. With an enrollment of almost two thousand students, South has one of the largest student bodies in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System. It also has one of the smallest parking lots, with about three hundred spaces available to undergraduates.

Student parking problems are not new to South. Juniors have had to fight for spots in the morning for years, while seniors could reserve privileged spaces in the upper lot. The situation was aggravated by the construction of the new administrative building, which reduced the total number of student spots for teachers who used to park their cars near the old traffic circle.

The dilemma pushed the price of reserved parking from \$10 to \$25 for seniors. According to an article in The Charlotte Observer, no other high school charges more than \$10 for reserved senior parking. Many juniors and sophomores have to park by the softball field and walk more than 100 yards to the nearest building. It doesn't

seem like much, but 100 yards is a long way in pouring rain.

There is no clear solution. Teachers must have parking in close proximity to the school. Students should not be inconvenienced or be forced to pay a huge sum of money for the right to park. There is no space near enough to the school to build a new lot. Carpooling and spot sharing seem to be the only way to alleviate the problem.

One solution would be to move the tennis courts over to the child care center. That would free up space for more spots close to the gym. Another would be to remove the modular units to another part of campus, and turn that area into a teacher parking lot. Both possibilities would be expensive and have other concerns that would have to be addressed. But either would be worth-while, if it allowed more students to park close to school.

Until the administration can come up with a better idea, students will have to put up with jammed parking lots and competition for early morning parking spaces.

Their Take on It

Huffing Takes Lethal Toll

Huffing, or concentrating chemicals to inhale them to get high has become an incredibly popular form of substance abuse. Inhalants are cheap, legal to purchase, and extremely available. For some people, inhalants are physically addictive, while others may suffer only from a psychological addiction....

Twice as many high school students will huff as will use cocaine or LSD. A British study estimates that three out of every ten teens that die of huffing die the first time they try it.

The Hi-Times, Broughton High School.

Don't Remain in Abusive Relationship

She thought things would get better as time went along....they only got worse. She thought that the beatings were her fault. He said that if she wouldn't have run her mouth like she did, then he wouldn't have hit her. It wasn't her fault. It was he that had the problem.

Some people even stay in the relationship until it is too late and one of them ends up getting killed. They do not realize that they should not be hit.... No one has the right to hit you.

The Muse, South Caldwell High School.

Students Dress Like Inmates

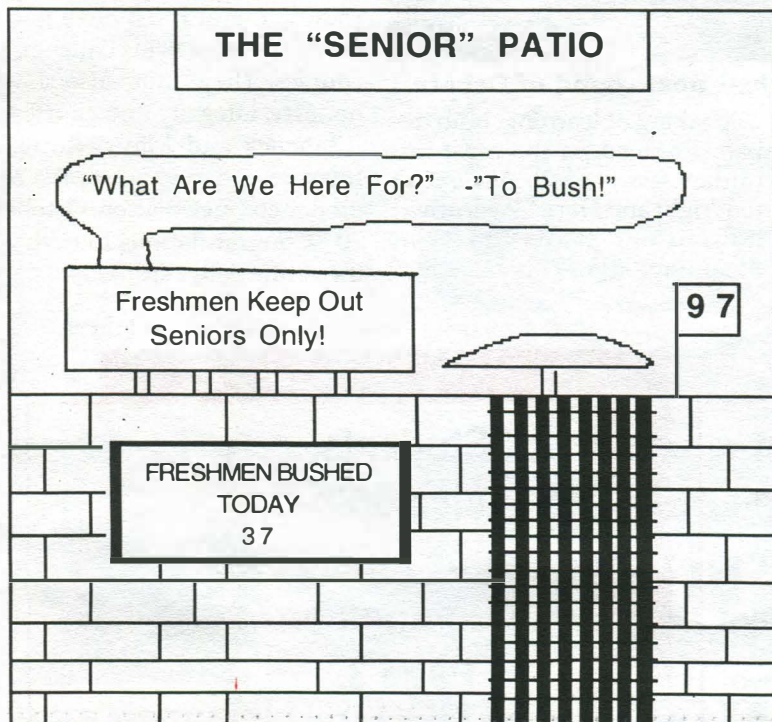
Some advocates see uniforms as a means of instilling in students the belief that their education should be taken seriously. In practice, however, uniforms are too often a way of subjecting the individual to the system. Prison inmates don't wear uniforms for pride, but because the warden wants to make the experience as miserable and degrading as possible.

Eagle's Eye, Enloe High School.

Are Parents the Key to a Good Education

Given the extraordinary influence families have over their children's learning, it is curious that almost all public discussion about improving education in this country centers around school-based reforms of one kind or another. Unless and until our education debate begins to focus on the family, significantly improving student performance in America is likely to remain an elusive goal.

William R. Mattox Jr., The Charlotte Observer.



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Faces in the Crowd

When the Lyon Roars

by Nicole Ewing

Jennifer Lyon may be one of the most talented performers to take the stage in South Mecklenburg's auditorium. "She is very talented; working with her is like working with a professional," said drama instructors Ms. Curl and Ms. Guzman. "She inspires and motivates others and gets them excited." Her many credits include A Chorus Line, A Christmas Carol, Oliver, Annie, and Oklahoma.

The crowd's reaction is important to Jennifer. "If there isn't any energy, I want to hurry off stage," she said. "I panic." During a performance, she wants to give the audience a little magic and an escape. Jennifer wants them to really believe that she is the character that she is playing. She also hopes to direct

some plays this year at South.

Jennifer Lyon is funny, open, outgoing, and dedicated. She is involved in many other organizations such as High Point Community Arts Theater, North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, School of the Arts, and her church just to name a few. She is also the host at the Karaoke Connection at Carowinds.

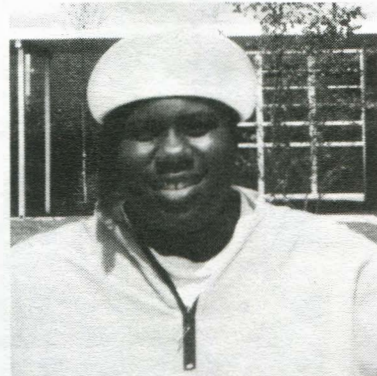
Jennifer's other hobbies include running, climbing trees, rock climbing, and anything else to be outside. She also models, loves to write poetry, and trains circus dogs. Jennifer loves a good laugh, "the kind that makes your stomach hurt."

Her biggest dream would be to go to either NYU or Juilliard and to act or direct on Broadway and win a Tony award. "I only want to be on stage," she said.

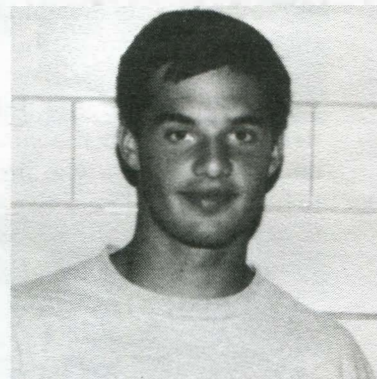


Name: Jennifer Lyons
Favorite Music: Old Jazz and the Blues
Preferred Artist: Tori Amos
Best Movies: Old Movies
In Her Spare Time: Shopping at Flea Markets

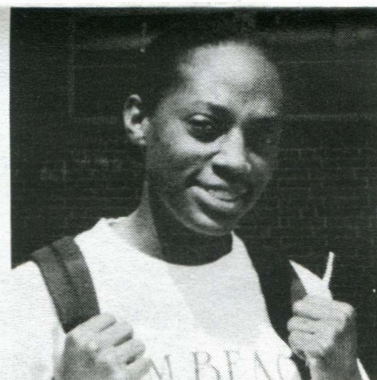
What do you think about drug dogs on campus?



"I think we are criminals. South should be a school, not a jail."
Kelli McGill-12th



"I think it is good to have these kinds of searches. I would have expected the dogs to find much more."
Andy Babcock-11th



"It helped enhance our security. By cracking down on drugs, the dogs helped prevent a lot of trouble."
Nadiyah Colvin-12th

Ross is Boss

by Branna Calloway

The Executive Council can't make a move without a capable leader. Andre Ross, the 96-97 Student Body President, is that leader. His plans are to improve the relationship between students and teachers. He also wants to improve the image of athletics with academics.

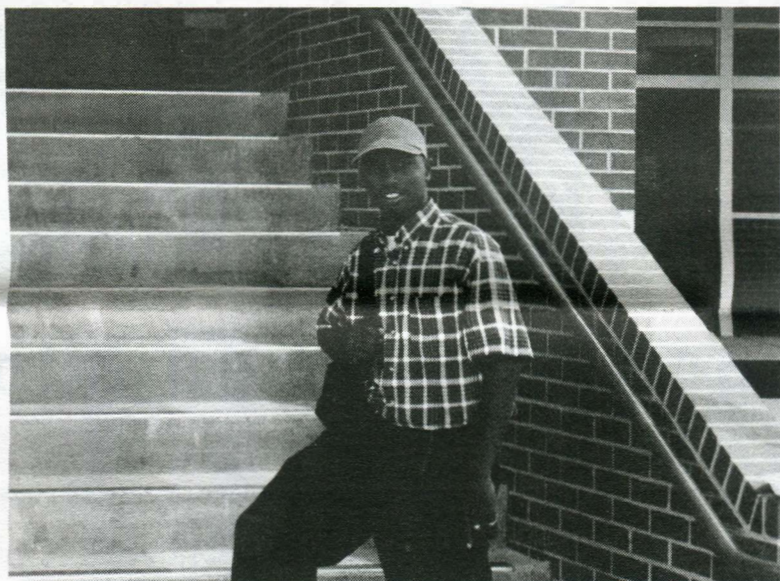
Andre Ross grew up on the west side of Charlotte and was raised by a single parent. But, through all this adversity, Andre set goals and worked hard to achieve them.

His determination earned him the Beat the Odds Award and the Black Male Overcoming Many Obstacles Award. To win the Beat the Odds Award, a student, who has had hardships, must remain involved in school and be selected by his high school.

Being student body president demands a lot of time from Andre, but he has decided not to let his responsibilities keep him from other activities he enjoys. He continues to play varsity football.

As a senior, Andre is taking challenging academic classes such as College Algebra and career classes like Small Business/Entrepreneurship. Extracurricular activities for Ross include being a member of the Young Men's Club, Peaceful Sabres, NAACP, and Gospel Choir. "I'd teach a younger student to stay involved in school activities," said Ross.

Over the past summer, he attended Project Upbound at Johnson C. Smith, and Love of Learning, an on-campus pre-college program, at Davidson College.



Name: Andre Ross
Favorite Artist: OutKast
Best Color: Blue
Favorite Dinner: Lasagna
Loves to Play: Football and Basketball

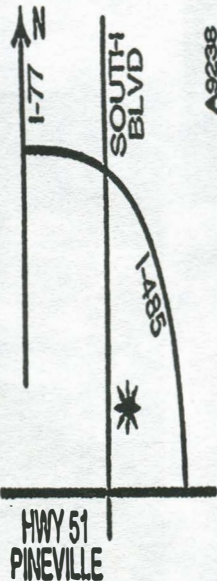
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Let the Blue Ri

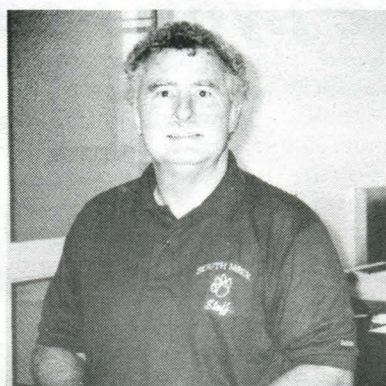
New Face



Miss Cockerham
Assistant Principal

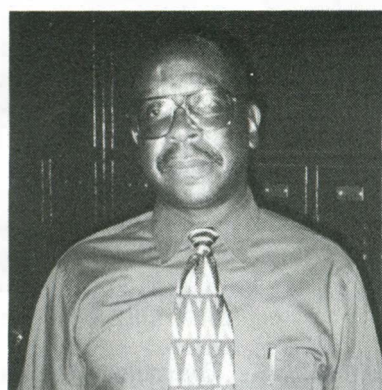
Miss Cockerham, previously at Smith Middle School, joins the staff this year as the new head of Student Activities. She feels that her position will allow her to meet all of the student body, not just those who are sent to her for discipline

*Assistant Principal
Information provided by
Jennifer Collins*



Mr. Morris
Assistant Principal

Mr. Morris came to South from Northeast Middle School, where he was Assistant Principal under Dr. Knox. He was delighted when he found out that he would continue to work with Dr. Knox. Mr. Morris's goal for this year is "...to assist in putting South Mecklenburg on top academically, athletically, and anyway associated with school."

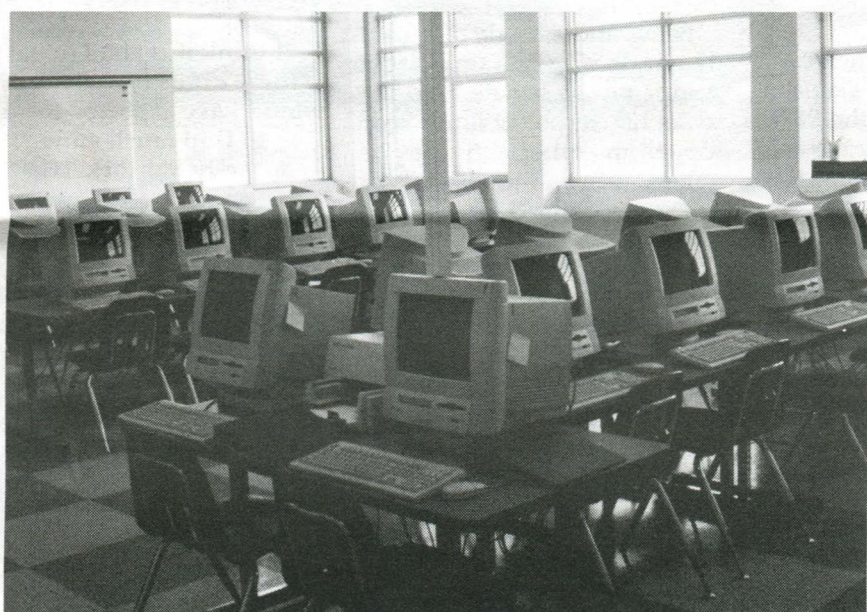


Mr. Wallace
Assistant Principal

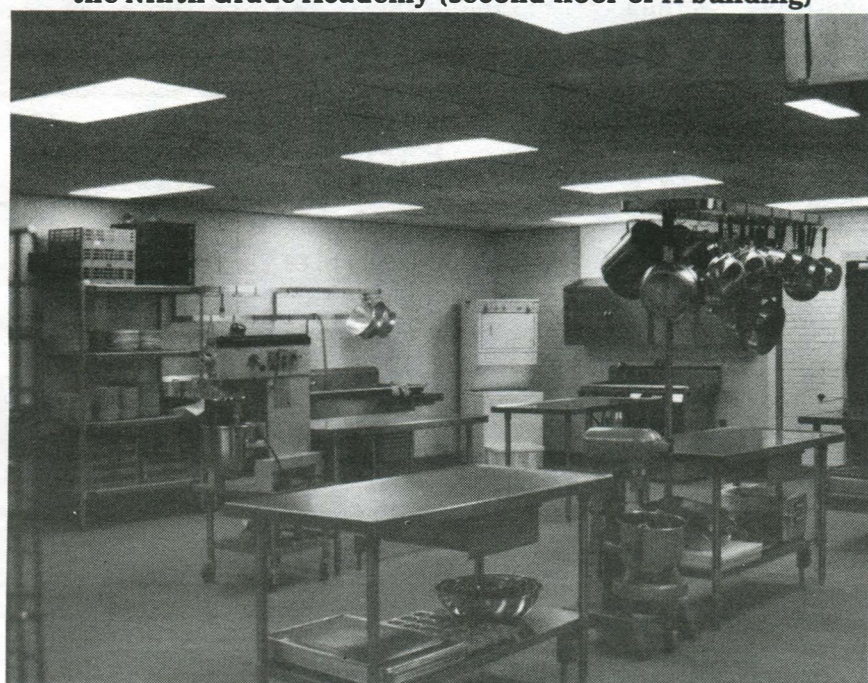
Mr. Eugene Wallace comes from South Charlotte Middle School. He accepted this position because he would like to deal with high school students and see the transition that students make as they prepare for college. He believes South will provide him with this challenge.



Aerial view of the South Meck campus



The computer lab to be used by English students, located in the Ninth Grade Academy (second floor of A building)



South's new food preparation lab in A building

Cooking 101

by Nicole Ewing

The new food production lab in room A120 is a full restaurant kitchen. Here, students learn all of the skills needed to be employed in food service including units on restaurant management and baking. It will be a full catering service for South's activities, and once a week Level 2 students will offer the "South Side Cafe" which is a restaurant for teachers. Go by and check it out, it smells great!

An "A" for the New Building

by Andrew Buchert

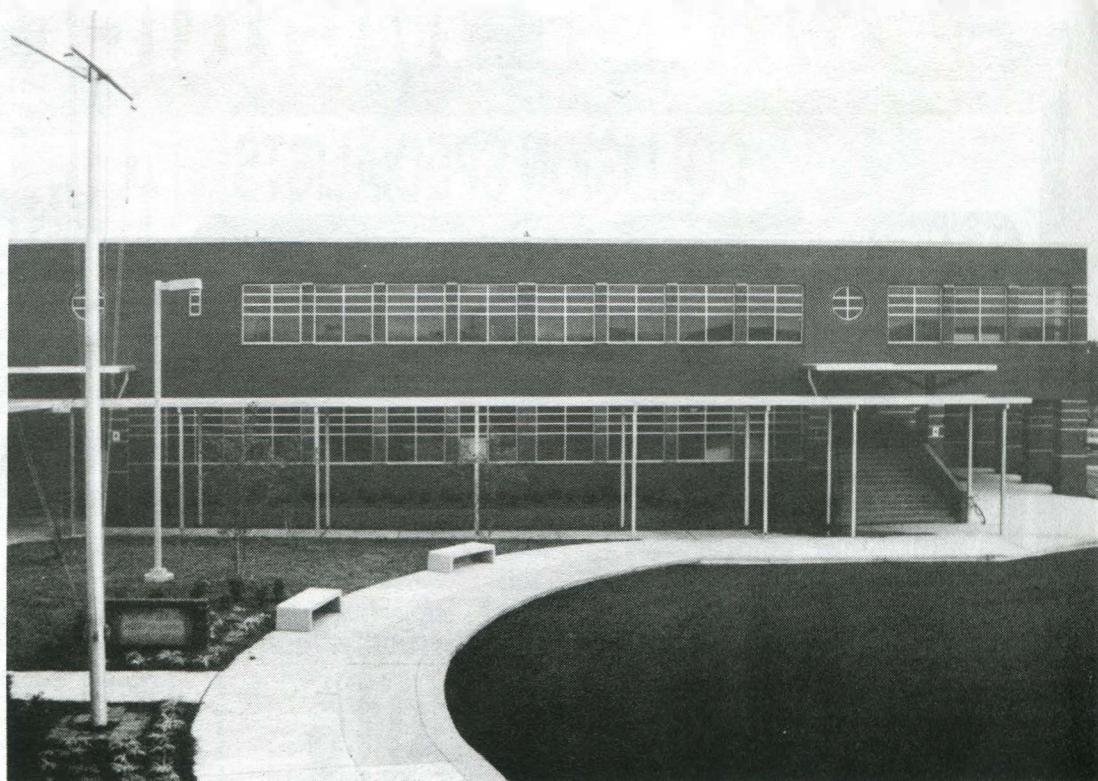
The most visible change to the campus of South Meck this school year is the completion of the new two-story "A" building, otherwise known as the Ninth Grade Academy.

On the first floor of A building are the administrative and Student Services offices. (The old administration office in the E building has been converted to a much needed teacher workroom.) Also located on the first floor, in room A105, is the school Health Office for sick or injured students.

Food Management is a new course being offered at South this year. The class is taught in the new Food Laboratory which can also be found on the first floor of A building, across from the Student Services desk.

The outside stairs lead to the second floor which houses the Ninth Grade Academy. This floor contains six classrooms where ninth grade English and High School Success classes meet, as well as a teacher workroom and a Macintosh computer lab for English students.

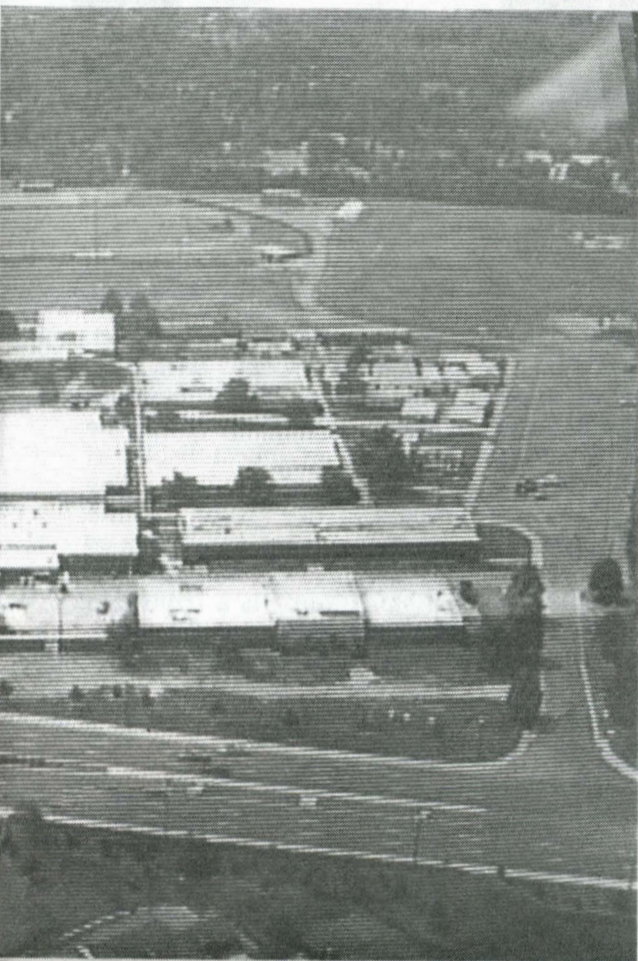
The new expansion to South's campus was greatly needed. Enrollment figures show the school to be almost at full capacity, with 1989 students at the time of publishing. The new facility will help to improve the learning atmosphere of our school.



The front view of A building, which houses the main office and the Student Services Office on the ground floor, and the Ninth Grade Academy on the second floor.

Blue Ribbon Begin!!!

South



Photograph courtesy of Jefferson-Pilot Communications



Mrs. Miklos
English



Mrs. Bremble
ECSC



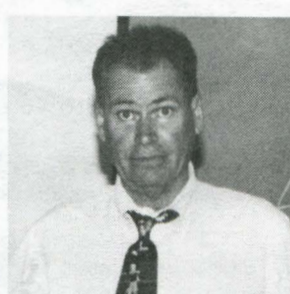
Mr. Pressley
Auto Mechanics



Mrs. Firestone
Math



Mrs. Haviland
Science



Mr. Brackett
E/L/P



Mrs. DeLong
Math



Mrs. Hutchinson
Math



Mrs. Dave
PE



Mr. Eddy
Applied Economics



Mrs. Adams
PE



Mrs. Rice
Secretary



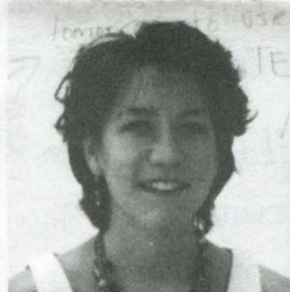
Mrs. Cornwell
Keyboarding



Mrs. Yo
Chinese



Mrs. Fuller
Science



Mrs. Strickland
English



Mrs. Hastings
Choir

Fort Knox Aims for Blue Ribbon

by Karen Whichard

The 1996-97 school year is the beginning of a new era, with different leaders and ambitious goals. A new superintendent is in charge, Dr. Knox begins his first full year as principal of South, and students and faculty hear a new slogan all over campus: "The quest for the blue ribbon has begun."

The Blue Ribbon Award is given by the U.S. Department of Education to recognize exceptional schools nationwide. Carmel Middle School and Providence High School are the only two schools in Charlotte that have received this award, but Dr. Knox hopes to make South Meck the third. Some of the criteria of winning the Blue Ribbon are effective leadership within the school, a positive teaching environment, and a supportive school community.

Dr. Knox said that winning the Blue Ribbon, "says something about the commitment of the school to total quality. It requires a tremendous amount of commitment on the part of the students and teachers, administrators and staff, parents and community to have an exemplary school program."

South Meck has many outstanding programs which make the quality of education better.

Many of these activities, such as DECA, continually



Dr. Knox takes a break to pose for the camera.

do well in national and statewide competition. The fine arts department is also full of talent; many students win scholarships to colleges and universities. The flexography program is impressive, and so is NJROTC. Dr. Knox said, "When you look at the fine educational program we offer here with the high AP scores and SAT scores, it is clear that South has an exemplary instructional program."

Other areas that make South an exceptional candidate for the Blue Ribbon are the number of scholarships won by South Meck graduates and the quality of universities and colleges they attend.

Another strong point is parental involvement. The South Meck PTA, Band-Aides, Booster Club, and other organizations contribute to the success of the school.

Meeting the benchmark goals will be one of South's challenges. However, with hard work on the part of all students, Dr. Knox feels that this can be accomplished.

South Meck is really set apart by its tremendous sense of spirit and acceptance of all its students. In order for South to continue to improve, Dr. Knox said, "Each one of us needs to put back into our school, into our community to make it a little better than when we found it. It's that caring and giving of ourselves that makes South a better place for those who are here now and for those who will come."

South Undercover: Fake ID's

by Mike Klein

This is the first installment of a monthly column designed to expose, but not necessarily to remedy, illegal activities of the student body and is entitled "South Undercover."

There are students on this campus who are older than their teachers! How could this be? More and more South Meck students are investing in fake identification, usually in the form of a driver's license, to obtain goods or services not normally granted to high school age students.

These ID's sometimes have students as old as 26 years. They look very realistic to police, let alone to store clerks.

While walking around the school grounds, it is not hard to find a classmate with a fake ID.

One such student, a senior at South who chooses to be remain anonymous, has used his for everything from R-rated movies, cigarettes, tattoos, and night clubs, to his most frequent use, alcohol.

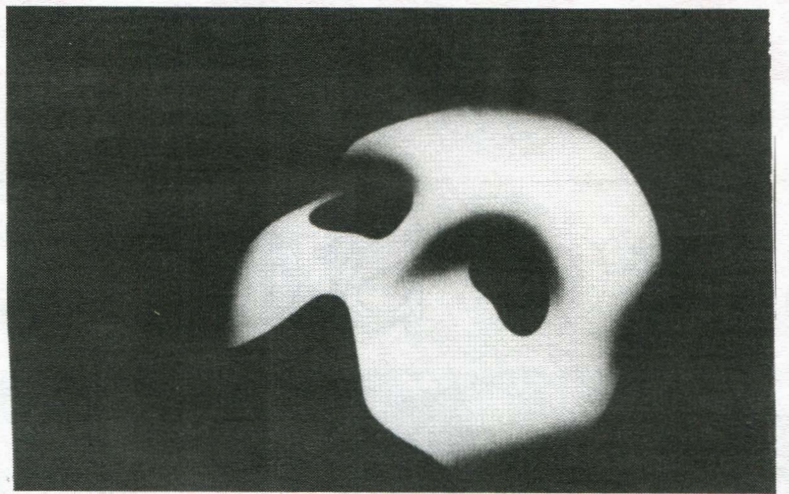
He claims to have purchased the ID for only \$35. After walking into a reputable ID store, he recalls, "They had a little place in the back of the store where they took people like me." He has little trouble using it in Charlotte.

Don't believe for one second that he's fudging just a few years. The forged document was obtained when he was only 15 years old, making an artificial age of 21 a six year discrepancy. He uses it two or three times per week, careful only to avoid ABC stores where he fears

being caught because of tougher scrutiny by the cashiers. He has learned that looking confident and pretending to get annoyed if hassled about the validity of the ID helps to ensure that it is accepted.

When questioned about mandatory drinking ages, he responded, "I think it's a stupid law. It's a restriction of my civil rights." Falsified identification has been on the rise ever since the nationwide drinking age was raised from 18 to 21.

Fake ID's are, of course, illegal and punishment for a first time offender can include the suspension of one's driver's license until the age of 21. This certainly has not proven to be an effective barrier to some of the South Mecklenburg student body.



The Phantom Lurks in our Hearts and Minds

by Cliff Mauriello

Charlotte is finally getting the real deal. Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* opened August 31 at the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. Charlotte has hosted other versions of *The Phantom of the Opera*, but Webber's adaptation of the novel *Le Fantome de L'Opera* by Gaston Leroux is considered to be superior for its haunting music and spectacular special effects.

Thomas James O'Leary stars as the Phantom, a disfigured musical genius who lives under the Paris Opera House. Shunned by the world, he writes music to worship the night. Although the Phantom has supernatural ability, he needs a female to sing with him for eternity. He begins to subconsciously ensnare the young Christine Daae, a talented soprano played by Adrienne McEwan. Christine's father promised an angel of music to care for her after he died. Christine believes the Phantom is her angel. Her fiancée Raoul, John Schroeder, at-

tempts to free Christine from the Phantom's spell.

Webber's music, combined, with the lyrics of Charles Hart, is the heart of *The Phantom of the Opera*. "The Phantom of the Opera" is an upbeat display of the Phantom's power. "The Music of the Night", is the Phantom's passionate plea to Christine to sing his music. "All I Ask of You", is a tribute to Raoul's and Christine's love. "Wishing You were Somehow Hear Again" is Christine's remembrance of her father's guidance.

The special effects create the belief in the Phantom's powers. Flashes of light, optical illusions, and vanishing actors are a tour de force that leave the audience awestruck. Without these effects, the audience could never truly believe in the Phantom or in the power of his music.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* is a tribute to the power of music and the stage. The songs, special effects, and story are among the most memorable ever produced on or off Broadway.



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Sabre Recognition:

Ginnie Hench attended The Marie Walsh Shays Art Seminar at Colorado College for two weeks this summer.

Amanda Price received the 1996 Amy Charles Writing Award.

Ben McCloskey and Amanda Price won the North Carolina Teachers of English Award for Writing.

Farrell Beam and Sarah Smith attended the Mars Hill Leadership Camp at Mars Hill College this past July.

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Underdogs No Longer

by Jennifer Collins

The young, somewhat inexperienced volleyball team from a year ago has been replaced this year with a team who are mostly juniors ready to excel. The Sabres have built on the momentum established by the 1995 squad and have stepped up as one of the top teams in the Southwestern 4A Conference.

South Mecklenburg had to overcome the unexpected loss of two of its members, Carol MacDonald and Erin Witte, two contributors who were a vital part of maintaining chemistry, early in the season. Two transfers from Harding University High, Katie Aldridge and Jacque DuBois, have proved to be very valuable and have molded with the team well.

Coach Dave coached the team last year to a record of 23-6, and has even bigger expectations for the 1996 season. "We have the talent and experience, and are

learning to work together as a team. As soon as we achieve that, we will be unstoppable," said Dave.

One of the team's prominent goals at the beginning of the season was to defeat Providence High School. Provi-

"We have the talent and experience, and we are learning to work together."

dence had never lost to a conference team during the regular season, and the Sabres had never beaten Providence, even in the conference tournament. South Meck made sports history when they won their match against Providence. After losing the first game, South came from behind to win the match, establishing them as a team to

beat.

Captains of the team this year are senior Amy Bailes and junior Kristy Michue. Karen Whichard and Mary Llewellyn, both juniors, are alternating floor captains.

One of the reasons for success thus far is that the varsity works closely with the junior varsity. The JV team is coached by Coach Adams who is new to South Meck this year. So far, JV is playing well and providing a solid foundation for future years.

In order for South to finish the season successfully, however, they will need to be mentally prepared to play in every game. Another area the team will need to concentrate on is working together as a unit. Once these obstacles are overcome, the Sabres will finally reach the upper level of the conference they have been seeking for so long.



The Sabre defensive line surges to stop the run.

Tough Losses Trouble Sabres

by Cliff Mauriello

Sometimes a team's record is not an accurate reflection of how good the team actually is. This is the case with South Mecklenburg.

Early in the football season, South Meck played well, but each game ended in disappointment. The team lost to Ashbrook 14-6, and Independence, ranked third in the Charlotte Observer Sweet 16, narrowly escaped from Boger Stadium with a 22-14 win. The most heartbreaking game was the 32-26 overtime loss to Olympic. Quarterback C. J. Leak directed a last second touchdown drive, and Carter scored a two point conversion to tie the game. The Sabres had the opportunity

to beat the Trojans in overtime, but failed to convert an extra point. Still, the Sabres proved they have the grit and determination necessary to win.

The staple of the Sabres running game is the option. The option, combined with Leak's passing game, should be enough to cause opposing defenses problems. "Last year we had talent on the offensive line and lacked skill players. This year we have the skill players but have a young offensive line," said Coach Shaughnessy.

If South Mecklenburg plays the way they did in the closing minutes against Olympic, they'll do more than talk about winning. They will win.

With Hard Work, Playoffs Become Reality

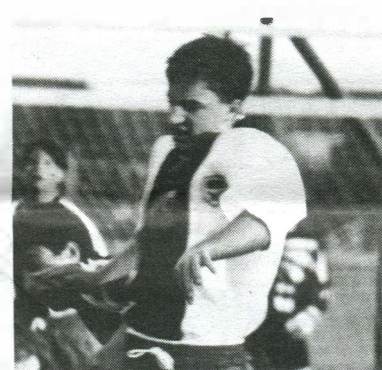
by Karen Whichard

Will this year be the one? After many hours of hard work, the men's soccer team is ready to step into the spotlight.

As the new season begins for the Sabres, they are working hard to overcome the disappointments of last season, where they finished in a fourth place tie in the Southwestern 4A conference and did not advance to the state playoffs. The team, although it is very young, is determined to do well.

Coach Lynch said, "One of our goals is to qualify for the play-

offs this year." In order for the Sabres to qualify, they will need



Jeff Tate makes the play.

to beat the top conference contenders to make it to the state tournament. With all the hard work, South Meck should do well. Junior Andy Babcock said, "The team has really worked hard and it's starting to pay off. I think we should challenge for the conference title."

In order for the Sabres to do well, key players will need to come through in big games. These players are Gus Doulevaris, Eric Connelly, along with senior captains Josh Davis and John Moffit.

Cancellations Can't Stop Sabres

by Cliff Mauriello

After the first two invitationals of the season were canceled, the South Mecklenburg cross country season is opening at a leisurely pace. The UNCW Seahawk Invitational was washed out by Hurricane Fran, and the Wake Forest Cross Country Classic was called off by the construction of a new campus parking lot.

The cancellations have left the Sabres scrambling to find new races in which to compete. The invitationals would have pro-

Is the Panther Success Here To Stay?

by Karen Whichard

In the aftermath of possibly the biggest win in Panther history, many are wondering if the Panthers are really good, or just incredibly lucky. Was the team that defeated San Francisco the perennial power, merely a group of overachievers?

Even without team leader Kerry Collins, out with an injury, the Panthers were able to dominate both sides of the ball, keeping Jerry Rice from scoring a touchdown. If the Panther defense can continue to step up in big games and stop other team's go to men, the Panthers will continue to be successful. Meanwhile, they still have something to prove.

vided a large number of upper class runners to compete against.

Instead, the Sabres scheduled an extra duel meet against Providence, a team they must beat to make the state championships.

The Sabres return the top three runners from last year's team, and five of their top seven. Michael and Cliff Mauriello were the only Sabres to make the All-Conference team, but third man Mike Arrigo should be a

contender for a spot on this year's squad.

The girls are inexperienced at best. Sophomore captain Kate Meier provides a solid foundation of the team, but she can't carry the team to victory by herself. The rest of the team has at most one season of competition under its belt. In order for the team to be able to be a contender for the championship, the rest of the runners will have to improve significantly and come up from the back of the pack.

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Building from Success

by Nicole Ewing

Even after the graduation of their top players, the girl's tennis team remains very confident about this season. "Even though we lost our top five players from last year, we're planning on doing our best and working our way back to the top," said captain Allison Abbott.

There are several newcomers to the 1996-97 tennis team, including Coach Art Abbot. "There are a lot of new faces this year, and we are very excited

about the upcoming season," said Coach Abbott, "our main goal is to gain experience and to have everyone play up to their potential." They have a lot to live up to, but they are certain with time and effort they can be better than last year's team. Senior Shelly Moore said, "We've got a great group of girls this year. They help everyone stay positive. Last year we had a few great players. This year we have a team and that's what's going to make this season the best."



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Senior Mysteries



by Jennifer Collins

This senior mystery is well recognized around South for her basketball skills. She has earned the following honors: Conference Tournament MVP, South Mecklenburg Women's Basketball MVP, and All-County first team. She has played competitive AAU basketball for four years, and was featured as Miss Ball Player of the region, as well as a cable station's HS player of the week.

This senior is currently working at Pretzel Twisters in Eastland Mall. She plans to study criminal law or physical therapy at a four year university after she graduates. Answer at bottom of page 8.



by Keith Mason

This senior is a member of Drama Department, Marching Band, National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Peer Mediators. She begins her busy day when she arrives in the morning in her silver Mazda RX-7. She is ranked in the top ten percent of her class. You could probably find her working at Blockbuster Music. This senior is truly a theatrical character. She kept busy last summer representing Charlotte in an exchange program in Russia, being a volunteer at Mercy South Hospital, and spending five weeks at North Carolina School of the Arts for filmmaking. Answer at bottom of page 8.

Movie Goers Fall Into Autumn Movies

by Lauren Coggins

Hollywood aims to please all movie goers this fall. Whether you're a fan of Madonna, John Grisham, or Brad Pitt, there's a movie for you. Trekkies will be especially happy, as there will be a new movie in the Star Trek saga, and English teachers just may be happier than anyone.

Some fall movies, including *The Chamber*, *Evita* and *Ransom*, are more eagerly awaited than the rest. *The Chamber*, starring Chris O'Donnell and Gene Hackman, is another movie based on a novel by John Grisham. It might not be as successful as *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief*, and *The Client* because audiences may have seen enough of his death-penalty dramas.

In the upcoming *Evita*, Madonna portrays Eva Peron, the wife of Argentine dictator Juan Peron. *Evita*, a movie based on Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical of the same name, also stars Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce. *Evita* supposedly contains the same songs as Webber's musical, although many fans are skeptical as to how the music is to be incorporated into the movie. Many Argentines are doubtful as

well, but for different reasons. Madonna's role in *Evita* has caused much controversy. Many Argentines don't want her to portray the legendary Eva Peron.

Brad Pitt can be seen this fall in the new movie *Sleepers*, although devoted fans may be appalled that he has dyed his blonde hair much darker. The disturbing movie, which also stars Jason Patric and Robert De Niro, is based on the true story of four boys who are sent to a reform school, where they are tortured and abused by guards.

Another grim movie to be released is *Ransom*, which stars Mel Gibson and Rene Russo as a wealthy couple whose lives are disrupted when their son is kidnapped.

English teachers, if they enjoy adaptations of classical literature, have several movies to look forward to this fall. The first-ever movie version of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, a play about the Salem witch hunts, will be coming to the big screen. It stars Daniel Day-Lewis and Winona Ryder, and will be released on November 27. The makers of the movie used *The Scarlet Letter* as an ex-

ample of what not to do, and even enlisted Miller's help, who modified the script in places to make the dialogue smoother.

Shakespeare is making a comeback this fall, with updated versions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet* to be released on October 18 and December 25, respectively. *Romeo and Juliet* will be the first new movie adaptation of the classic love story since Franco Zeffirelli's 1968 take, and will star Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. *Hamlet* will star Kenneth Branagh and Kate Winslet.

Another movie that may attract English teachers is *In Love and War*, the supposedly true story of a nurse who fell in love with the legendary novelist Ernest Hemingway while he was serving in Italy during World War I. It is based on a book by Henry Villard, a friend of Hemingway, and stars Chris O'Donnell and Sandra Bullock. It will be released on December 25, as well.

There is great diversity in the selection of movies that will be released this fall. The upcoming movie season presents many opportunities to go see a good movie. Don't let it pass you by.

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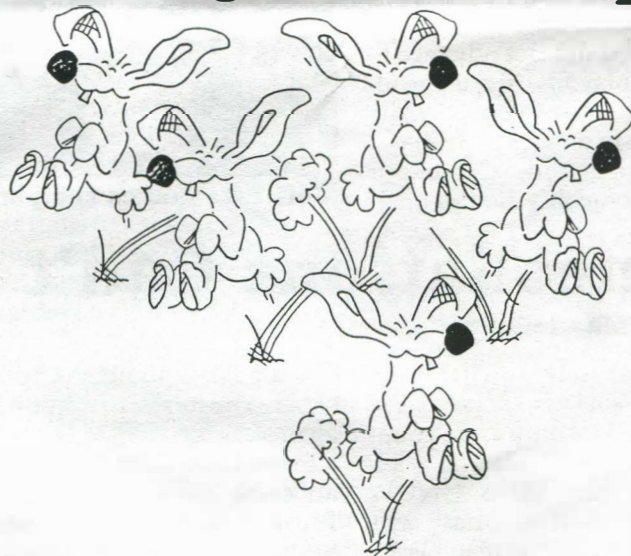
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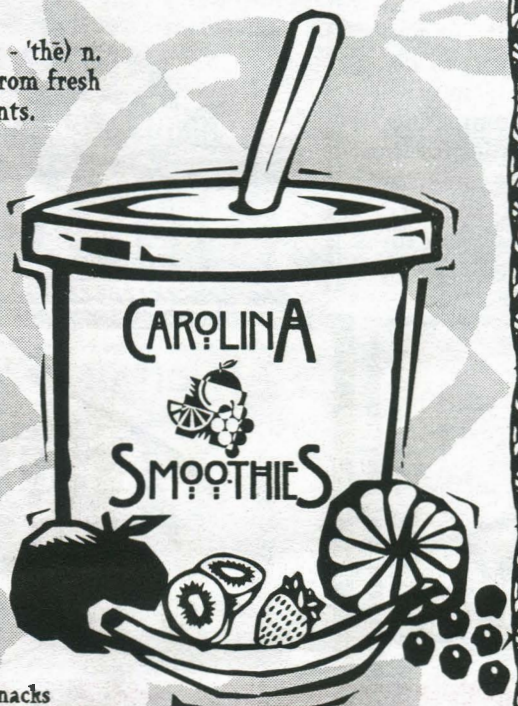
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